



INSTITUT MEDICAL CHRETIEN DU KASAI

Christian Medical Institute of the Kasai - Serving in Central Congo

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A Monthly Newsletter

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IMCK WELCOMES INTERIM DIRECTOR: Dr Denis Pirlot de Corbion arrived at Tshikaji in April to serve as the Interim Director of IMCK. A native of Belgium, Dr. Pirlot de Corbion has worked in clinical and administration roles in hospitals in Belgium, Gabon, Liberia, Myanmar, Nigeria, The Republic of Guinea and the Democratic Republic of Congo. He has experience in managing hospitals in distress and in coordinating international programs. He speaks French and English. Dr. Pirlot de Corbion is a graduate of State University of Liege Medical School and has completed extra studies in tropical medicine. He has degrees in hospital management and public health administration. The IMCK Board approved the hiring of Dr Pirlot de Corbion earlier this year, after a search began last summer which was underwritten by Myers Park Presbyterian Church. IMCK welcomes his arrival!

Submitted by Mike Clement, Bernard Kabibu, and Bill Rule



(Above) Nurse Emery Kobo Karundzu works with Diabetic patients at Good Shepherd Hosp.

(Below) Nurse Paul Kwete runs the Diabetic Clinic at IMCK PAX, examining and teaching hundreds of Diabetics each year.



DIABETES PROGRAM AT IMCK:

Most people in the Kasai are slender, but Diabetes is still a major disease among adults. Three IMCK employees attended Diabetes courses in Kinshasa, sponsored by World Diabetes Foundation (WDF). They were Dr. Mulaja Mukendi, Emery Karundzu and Paul Kwete. They currently provide critical medical service to Diabetics in the region.

At IMCK PAX Diabetic Clinic (in the city of Kananga) and at the Tshikaji Diabetic Clinic, supervised by Dr Mulaja Mukendi, there are over 600 visits a year for diabetes detection and management. Nurse Paul Kwete administers PAX Diabetes Clinic. Bright nutritional charts on the wall are useful for nutritional education. Mr. Kwete emphasizes feet exams, using devices to assess feeling but still needing a doppler to assess blood flow. Good foot care helps to prevent limb infections and amputations. PAX Diabetes Clinic primarily manages diabetes with glucophage, Dionil, insulin and patient education. On an ordinary clinic day, many patients are seen with various types of infections, fed by elevated blood sugars.

Early detection and management of Diabetes can prevent many complications and extend life. But many diabetic (See Page 2 - diabetes)

PARTICIPATING IN THE IMCK GLOBAL COMMUNITY: In this technological age, more of us can participate in a global community interested in IMCK. Websites, email, Facebook, cell phones, newsletters and pod casts are some ways the IMCK global community can communicate and learn about each other. Who makes up this IMCK global community? While IMCK is a medical center in the Democratic Republic of Congo, it has historical Christian connections to Presbyterian and Mennonite Churches in the USA. It also has support from individuals and organizations in many European countries. IMCK relations with other African countries include education programs, supply systems, and government exchanges. Governments of various countries, such as USAID and Peace Corp, have supported IMCK with supplies, service and grants. Many news sites provide current information about Congo.

Learn more about each other by reading internet news at such sites as listed on page three. To communicate by email between English and French, use the google translation site <http://translate.google.com/#>. For automated translations to work better, use short and simple sentences. Avoid using idioms or local expressions. Be sensitive to cultural differences. Americans often start an email abruptly with business, while Congolese might first give salutations and well wishes. To visit the Congo, check out the advice of <http://www.bestmissiontravel.com/>.

Americans used to learn about Congo primarily from other Americans who had lived there. Now churches and individuals find direct friendship and collaboration, using phones, internet and visits. Individuals and groups in the USA are visiting in Congo and return with stories of profound learning and insight about Africa and about noble workers at IMCK. Congolese now visit the USA and lecture or collaborate in research projects. We grow in our global friendship and community in efforts for a healing ministry. Read about each other; email each other; visit each other. Stretch out! May God bless our IMCK global community.

Submitted by Charlotte White

VISITORS TO IMCK THIS TIME OF YEAR



STEVE EASON
PASTOR/HEAD OF STAFF

Ten people from Myers Park Presbyterian Church (MPPC) are visiting IMCK May 13 - 20. The trip includes Senior Minister Dr. Steve Eason (left) and his wife, Catherine, a university professor. Two congregation members are traveling to IMCK for the first time. The focus of the trip will

include bringing medical supplies, business office support, medical care with a physician and nurse, and plans for a girls' school, which Myers Park is developing in Kananga. MPPC has been a major partner with IMCK through good and bad years. Almost annually, MPPC visits in Christian friendship and support.

From June 2 - 7, a group of 14 people, mostly children of former missionaries, will stay at Tshikaji guest house, before continuing their journey to Lubumbashi. They will be led by Jimmy Shafe, Director of Rivers of the World (ROW) for Congo.

Jimmy and Jan Shafe, members of PCUSA Church of the Redeemer in Georgia, will lead another group of eight people June 17 - 22. They will stay at Tshikaji and work with IMCK and CPC on hospital and community projects. Jimmy Shafe, son of former missionaries to Congo, has visited Congo regularly the past years, working on such projects as bringing medical supplies, building water wells, renovation of IMCK infrastructure and forming a Tshikaji sewing school. Jimmy Shafe, an entrepreneurial business man, has been creative in finding ways to support the health and educational services of IMCK. He is also keenly interested in how to improve business and employment opportunities there.

Submitted by Mike Clement & Bernard Kabibu

Jane Lockhart hopes to work at IMCK

Jane Lockhart, a member of Carver Memorial Presbyterian Church in Newport News, Virginia, wants to go to IMCK in September to work for at least six months. She has extensive experience in communications and teaching in the US. Jane has helped to start a school in Kinshasa and moderated a committee that led 19 people from PEVA, a US presbytery, to visit in Congo. She responded to a PCUSA bulletin about an invitation from IMCK for someone to come to Tshikaji to work in public relations. (See Jan. Newsletter.)

Jeff Boyd, PCUSA Central Africa Liaison, worked with Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF) to arrange for Jane to serve as a volunteer in the MBF Mission Service Program. In the IMCK public relations job, she will collaborate with staff on both local and international relations. As a major teaching and health service medical center for the area, IMCK seeks ways to meet major expenses and education commitments. This requires IMCK finding new ways to work in public relations. While graciously donating her time and skills, Jane will still need about \$7,000 for travel, visas, living expenses and supplies for this job. Please consider making a donation for her important project by donating to Medical Benevolence Foundation (see page three) and designate it for her service. Thank you, Jane!

Submitted Molly Wynenberg for MBF & by Bernard Kabibu



Jane (above) contacted Jeff Boyd at PCUSA about the IMCK public relations

Thank you Kathryn Akins-Roberson for your participation in the global IMCK community! Kathryn, of First Presbyterian Church, Knoxville, Tennessee, has been translating the English version of the IMCK newsletters into French. The newsletter is then sent to Congo and to French speakers in the US and Europe. Kathryn, who grew up in Tennessee, studied French and German in the US and in Europe. She taught French for years at the University of Tennessee and now teaches French in high school. She has also taught language in Europe, China, and South Korea. She is married to Russ Roberson and has two sons.

Submitted by Charlotte White

IMCK did not provide monthly operating statistics for this past month. We plan to provide these in the next newsletter.

DIABETES - Cont'd: patients must be admitted to the Good Shepherd Hospital for complications. There is also a smaller out patient diabetic clinic at the hospital. Emery Karundzu, a nurse at the hospital, works on the medical floor with patient care and education of diabetics and is also supervised of Dr Mukendi. He gathered annual statistics for patients treated at the hospital for Diabetes. They included the following information:

- 98 - admissions for diabetes complications
- 22 - infections requiring surgical debridement or toe amputation
- 23 - leg amputations, often due to gangrene infection

Many admissions were due to infections (such as urine, lung, stomach, malaria) complicated by diabetes. Others were admitted in diabetic comas.

At the Diabetes Clinics and in the Hospital, supplies are needed for work: glucometers (One Touch Ultra 2), the Ultra strips to put in the glucometer, more blood pressure machines and two dopplers. If you want to support this program, see page three for donations or consult Charlotte White about how to help with the next package of supplies going by trunk with someone flying to Congo.

Submitted by Paul Kwete and Emery Karundzu and Charlotte White

IMCK Board is meeting May 16 - 18. At the May Board meeting, Dr Larry Streshley will begin a term as Chairman. The meeting brings together 14 delegates as follows: 4 from Communauté Presbytérienne de Congo, 4 from Communauté Mennonite au Congo, 4 from Presbyterian Church USA, and 2 from IMCK (the Director and Legal Representative.) One feature of this meeting is not only that it will be moderated by a new president but also that he will welcome the new Director of IMCK, Dr Denis Pirlot de Corbion. Two members of Myers Park Church, Fletcher Wright and Mike Clement, will serve as PCUSA delegates at this board meeting. Various IMCK administrative staff will participate in the meeting in an advisory capacity. Some issues the Board will likely address are paying unpaid back salaries, reducing other debt, setting directions and making decisions about hospital staff issues, retraining or refreshing board membership and committees, and taking action in various accounting and management issues.

Submitted by Bernard Kabibu and Bill Rule



Mr Safi Salumu (left) had complications of his diabetes, resulting in gangrene of the left leg. He was admitted to Good Shepherd Hospital, where surgery was performed to amputate his left leg. His hospital bill was \$475, which was a shortfall for the hospital. So diabetes is a current problem in Western Kasai. And above that, poverty is at its record. Patients feel abandoned to their fate.

Malu Mamba (right) was admitted to the Hospital with a gangrenous wound of the left toe that had developed with having diabetes but lacking medicines. The surgeon decided the leg could be saved by removing toes of the foot. Her stay in the hospital required dressings and management of her diabetes, resulting in a bill of \$417. She was held 3 months in the hospital. She is a divorced woman with 2 children and lacked money. So she was released by the charity commission and will continue dressings at PAX. Submitted by Gibend Hippolithe



Keep up with USA/Congo Partnerships & News: <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/global/democratic-republic-congo/> & www.mbfoundation.org & <http://www.congopartners.org/> and www.facebook.com/ (search IMCK Congo) and <http://congohelpinghands.org/> & <http://www.row.org/congo-kasai-2009-update/>. PCUSA and MBF sites have lots of information about Congo and IMCK. Learn about the Congo Mission Network meeting, the next groups going to Congo, Woody Collin's Congo work, ROW work. To join Congo Connections, write Annette anbwash@centurylink.net. Go to <http://www.enoughproject.org/> to learn about conflict minerals in Congo and the need for certification. Learn about Congo at www.wikipedia.org/. Read, learn, get involved.

IMCK Board Member Mr. Laurent Kamizelo Kianza serves as the Secretary General of the Mennonite Community. He grew up West of Kananga, near Mukedi. He attended secondary school at Mukedi and Nyanga, then taught at Nyanga. He attended the University of Kikwit and then Kinshasa, graduating in Kinshasa in 1984. His university degree is in education. He returned to Kikwit and taught at the Institut Pemba, a secondary Christian school. He has long been active in Communauté Mennonite au Congo, the Mennonite Church in Congo. In 1995, he was assigned to be the Director of the Office of the Mennonite Community in Tshikapa. In 2004, the Mennonite Community elected him to be Secretary General, where he has since served. In Tshikapa, he also lectures at the university level on teaching. In 1983, he married Mafuta Charlotte and they have two daughters and three sons. When asked if he had a motto, his response was that he believes all should be engaged in their work. And he believes in the importance of education. He participated actively in the February IMCK Board meeting, which worked long hours on a busy agenda. Submitted by Charlotte White

Board Members of IMCK

These were the representatives at the Feb 14-16, 2011 meeting:

- Rev. Dr. Mulumba Musumbu Mukundi- Chairman & CPC Rep.
- Mr. Jeff Boyd - PCUSA Representative
- Dr. John Fletcher - CPC Representative
- Rev. Birakara Ilowa - CMCO Representative (Mennonite)
- Rev. Mboyamba Kabala - CPC Representative
- Mr. Laurent Kamizelo Kianza - CMCO Representative
- Rev Dr Adolphe Komuesa - CMCO Representative
- Dr. Gaspard Mahuma - CMCO Representative
- Rev. Tshidinda Mamba - CPC Representative
- Dr. Blaise Ndandu Mayimona - IMCK Representative
- Mr. Bill Rule IV - PCUSA Representative
- Dr. Larry Sthresley - PCUSA Representative
- Mr. Ntumba Tshitenge - IMCK Representative

IMCK Administration: imckbusiness@yahoo.fr

- Interim IMCK Director - Dr. Denis Pirlot de Corbion
- Administrator - Mr. Bernard Kabibu Bimvulu
- Legal Representative - Mr. Ntumba Tshitenge

IMCK is a Christian primary health care facility and medical education center. Its services are centered at the Good Shepherd Hospital, a 140 bed facility and at PAX, with 20 beds. General medicine, surgery, ophthalmology, pediatrics, obstetrics, dental services, radiology and lab services are provided. This faith based organization has been in operation for over 50 years. To help with supplies needed there, please contact Charlotte White at docwhite@hargray.com.

How to make a donation to IMCK

To give through Presbyterian Church, USA (PCUSA) on line, go to <http://gamc.pcusa.org/give/E320202/>. Or write a check to Presbyterian Church USA; send it to PCUSA, Individual Remittance Processing, PO Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700. Write "ECO#320202 - IMCK" on the check.

To give through the Medical Benevolence Foundation, a validated mission support group of PCUSA, give on line at <http://www.mbfoundation.org/index.php>. Or write a check to MBF; send it to 3100 S. Gessner, Suite 210, Houston, TX 77063. Write IMCK, Congo on the memo line.

To give directly to IMCK, make checks to IMCK. Send to Wachovia Bank (www.wachovia.com): Account number: 20000008628398; Account Owner: Institut Medical Chretien du Kasai; c/o Worldwide Ministries Div- Zaire. Then please send an email concurrently to Bernard Kabibu at IMCK (above address) informing him of the amount and designation, so IMCK can manage it appropriately.

Newsletter Matters

Contributors this month: Samuel Bakatusenga Buledi, Mike Clement, Gibende Hippolithe, Bernard Kabibu, Emery Karudzu, Paul Kwete, Charlotte Rule White and Molly Wyenberg of MBF. To add or remove a name from the mailing list, write to Charlotte Rule White at docwhite@hargray.com. Charlotte welcomes your suggestions or contributions.